

OCT 05 2001

KEN TEDFORD: My name is Ken Tedford for the

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18 record. I'm the mayor of the City of Fallon, and I'm  
19 appearing here tonight on behalf of Governor Kenny Guinn.  
20 He asked me if I'd read his statement into the record,  
21 which I'll do at this time.

22 "Good evening. On behalf of the citizens of  
23 the State of Nevada, I would like to  
24 welcome you here this afternoon and hope  
25 my remarks and remarks of many concerned

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1 Nevadans who will speak later will be  
2 taken in the spirit in which they're  
3 intended.  
4 "This is honest, constructive,  
5 impassioned public input on an issue that  
6 is paramount to the health and safety of  
7 every Nevadan and every American whose  
8 home, school or place of business sits  
9 along the proposed paths of the deadliest  
10 substance on earth that, if the DOE has  
11 its way, will take to Nevada.  
12 "This debate is not new. As many of you  
13 know, Nevada's fight to keep the nuclear

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14 waste repository from coming to Yucca  
15 Mountain has raged for nearly 20 years.  
16 Unlike many of the policy battles that  
17 grip Washington, however, this fight  
18 transcends party affiliation,  
19 socioeconomic classes, race or gender and  
20 galvanizes Nevadans from every corner of  
21 the state in opposition.

22 "Though the debate is not new, I must say  
23 recent development, those that bring us  
24 here tonight, are quite alarming and  
25 raise a number of new concerns. The very

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1 purpose of this meeting is in question.  
2 You have invited me and many good people  
3 here tonight so you and the Department of  
4 Energy can gather public input on  
5 scientific evidence that is not complete  
6 and has not been made public.  
7 "Public comment in the absence of this  
8 all-important evidence is premature and  
9 grossly irresponsible. Ladies and  
10 gentlemen, this is not the way we do

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11 business in Nevada, and certainly this is  
12 not the way the government should handle  
13 its affairs.  
14 "I am very disappointed you have chosen  
15 to disregard essentially all of my  
16 office's recommendations and decided to  
17 hold these meetings prematurely and over  
18 our reasonable objections. We in Nevada  
19 will not stand for it.  
20 "Therefore, I would strongly advise and  
21 today formally request you schedule  
22 additional hearings over the course of  
23 the coming months across Nevada and give  
24 our citizens and their elected leaders a  
25 fair and appropriate chance to respond to

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1 your completed findings. And I assure  
2 you, my outrage at the lack of protocol  
3 that has permeated this process will be  
4 detailed in letters directly to Secretary  
5 Abraham and the President. It is my  
6 sincerest hope that you recognize this  
7 error and your duty to correct it.

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8 "I don't have to remind anyone here today  
9 that it was not long ago that Nevadans  
10 and all Americans were assured nuclear  
11 testing was safe. It was less than 50  
12 years ago. Since that time the DOE has  
13 admitted that the aftermath of testing of  
14 the hydrogen bomb at Yucca Flats caused  
15 innocent Americans to die and that cancer  
16 benefits should be paid to the families  
17 of the dozens of men and women who were  
18 contaminated by the fallout from nuclear  
19 testing.  
20 "I am not talking about casualties of war  
21 in some distant country. I am talking  
22 about the small farmers in neighboring  
23 Utah who tragically suffered from  
24 contaminated nuclear air. I am talking  
25 about the Nevada workers and their

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1 families who took government at its word  
2 and trudged to and from the test site  
3 every day with assurances that they were  
4 not in any way in harm's way. I am

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5 talking about generations of patriotic  
6 American families financially wiped out,  
7 fighting cancer while they await word of  
8 admission or assistance from their  
9 government.

10 "The DOE pathetically only made that  
11 admission just a few years ago, and it  
12 came only after years of denial and  
13 government red tape, and just yesterday  
14 we have learned for the first time that  
15 germ warfare testing -- imagine, germ  
16 warfare testing -- was conducted at that  
17 same test site without any knowledge  
18 whatsoever by our own Congressional  
19 delegation or my office.

20 "With a track record like this, it is no  
21 wonder the Department of Energy lacks  
22 credibility, not only in Nevada, but also  
23 in our neighboring states. Given the  
24 history, I trust you can understand why I  
25 view this proceeding as morally illegal,

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1 if not technically so. It violates

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2 everything we believe in as Americans.  
3 It duplicates all that was wrong in the  
4 past and gives credence to the mistrust  
5 and cynicism harbored by so many of our  
6 people.  
7 "Our concerns are clear. This wonderful  
8 state has been ignored for far too long.  
9 We demand fairness, we demand  
10 accountability in the process. We will  
11 not sit idly by and let the Department of  
12 Energy run roughshod over our citizens  
13 with empty promises and bad science. We  
14 did it once in good faith as proud and  
15 loyal Americans, but, sadly, we did not  
16 get back what we gave, and so we have  
17 learned from the past and we are not  
18 about to repeat it."  
19 Thank you.